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BOROUGH OF WORKINGTON



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1955

BY

J. L. HUNTER

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

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Staff of the Public Health Department

JAMES L. HUNTER,			
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. ...		Medical Officer of Health.	
R. E. FLETCHER,			
M.B., Ch.B. ...	...	Deputy Medical Officer of Health.	
§*RICHARD JAMES	...	Chief Sanitary Inspector.	
§*PATRICK J. ELTON	...	Assistant Sanitary Inspector.	
*CHARLES E. PEARSON	...	Assistant Sanitary Inspector.	
MISS E. D. NICHOLSON	...	Chief Clerk.	
MISS E. I. PRICE	...	Junior Clerk.	
		(Resigned July, 1955).	
MISS N. MENHAM	...	Junior Clerk.	
		(Appointed July, 1955).	

* Certificate of R.S.I. and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board.

§ Certificate of Meat and Other Foods (R.S.I.).

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

ALDERMAN S. WALKER.

THE MAYOR (Councillor E. Barraclough).

Councillor J. ASKEW.

„ J. F. BIGGINS.

„ E. GRAHAM.

„ MRS. B. O. McKEATING.

„ H. H. McMANUS.

„ J. McD. MOORE.

„ T. MITCHELL.

„ MRS. M. A. SMITH.

„ MRS. A. B. THOMAS.

„ D. VICKERS.

„ A. YOUNG.

TOWN HALL,
WORKINGTON,
June, 1956.

*To the Worshipful the Mayor,
the Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Workington.*

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health for the year 1955.

The year was remarkable for the exceptionally fine and long-continued summer weather and in a low incidence of infectious disease. Poliomyelitis, which so often is favoured by hot weather, appeared in only one mild case. Twenty-six cases of dysentery and two typhoid fever cases were more in keeping, perhaps, with the summer, but, on the other hand, there were no cases of food-poisoning. Deaths from Tuberculosis numbered four—the lowest ever recorded in the Borough. The death rate from this disease was lower than that for England and Wales. The incidence of the disease, as judged by the number of cases, is unfortunately higher than before. It is hoped that B.C.G. vaccination, which has had a promising start, will result in a lower incidence of this disabling ailment.

The vital statistics for the year were good on the whole but disappointing in the increased Infantile Mortality Rate which rose from a record low figure of 24.2 in 1954 to 35.3.

The total population increased by only 10 to 28,940. The total Live Births were 453 giving a crude Birth Rate of 15.7 (adjusted, 15.2). Thirteen births were illegitimate. Deaths at all ages totalled 328, giving a crude Death Rate of 11.3 (adjusted, 12.4). There was one Maternal Death. Comments and comparisons on these and other figures are given in the text of the main body of this report.

Apart from routine investigation into cases of the common infectious diseases a vast amount of epidemiological work was done in Workington and two adjacent districts into the origins of two cases of typhoid fever. Although the source was not found it was comforting to know of the willingness to co-operate on part of other authorities in this important work.

At the end of the year B.C.G. vaccination was under way and vaccination against Poliomyelitis was about to come.

Important as these two preventive measures are, and topical though the second one is, it is still necessary to emphasise the great need for parents to have their children protected against Diphtheria at an early age. Diphtheria Immunisation is a well-tried and well-proven measure. By virtue of its effectiveness it has lost the stimulus earlier given in the continued occurrence of local cases of the disease. I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for permission to extract figures relating to Workington in respect of Diphtheria Immunisation (and B.C.G. Vaccination).

The number of houses built by the Corporation was 157: by private enterprise 16. At the time of writing restriction in capital expenditure will limit any expansion of this number.

Refuse collection is now on surer grounds with the gradual increasing number of better vehicles and growing percentage of adequate bins. Refuse Disposal is a continuous struggle against vast quantities of paper and tins. The loss by fire of the paper-baling premises early in the year further accentuated the problem and now there is a restriction on the quantities of baled paper that can be accepted by firms that re-manufacture paper products. A great deal of disturbance of tips is caused by irresponsible youths and others resulting in dissemination of paper over a wide area, and in fires. Malicious damage to fences, gates and huts continues to be a perverted pastime to many and poses the question as to how best a sense of civic pride and respect for common property might be inculcated in the minds of such elements of the population.

Much work is carried out by Mr. James and his Assistants in the inspection and supervision of food and I wish to draw attention to the advice in food hygiene to the public which is contained in Section E in his own words.

Again I wish to express my deep thanks to the Staff of the Public Health Department, both inspectoral and clerical, for their sustained efforts during the year and to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their consideration and encouragement.

I am,
Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. HUNTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

SOCIAL AND STATISTICAL CONDITIONS OF
THE AREA

1.—General.

Area in Acres	5,644
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate of Residents—mid-year, 1955)	28,940
Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books at the end of 1955	8,535
Rateable Value	£164,683
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£607

2.—Vital Statistics.

Births.

Live Births:—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	226	214	440
Illegitimate	9	4	13
	—	—	—
Total ...	235	218	453
	—	—	—

Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	15.7
Adjusted Birth Rate	15.2

Still Births:—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	2	4	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	—	—	—
Total ...	2	4	6
	—	—	—

Rate per 1,000 Live Births	13.2
----------------------------------	------

Deaths.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths (all ages)	171	157	328
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population	11.3		
Adjusted Death Rate	12.4		
Deaths from Tuberculosis	4		
Deaths from Cancer	66		
Maternal Deaths	1		
Deaths from Measles	Nil		
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year			

(Legitimate 15, Illegitimate 1)	Total	16
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year		
(per 1,000 Live Births)		35.3
Legitimate Infants per 1,000		
Legitimate Live Births		34.1
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000		
Illegitimate Live Births		77.0

3.—Notes and Comparisons on Vital Statistics.

Births.

Live Birth Rate:—

Workington (Crude)	15.7
Workington (Adjusted)	15.2
Urban Districts of Cumberland	16.7
Rural Districts of Cumberland	16.1
County of Cumberland	16.4
England and Wales	15.0

The Birth Rate for the Borough of Workington was lower than that for the County of Cumberland as a whole, but was approximately the same as the General Rate for England and Wales.

Deaths.

The comparative Death Rates were:—

Workington (Crude)	11.3
Workington (Adjusted)	12.4
Urban Districts of Cumberland (Crude)	12.2
Rural Districts of Cumberland (Crude)	12.3
England and Wales	11.7

The Adjusted Death Rate (i.e. the Crude Death Rate to which a comparability factor has been applied in order to make the Local Rate compare properly with that of the General Rate of England and Wales) is higher than the General Rate but rather lower than the Adjusted Rate (12.9) for 1954.

The total number of deaths was 328, i.e. 10 less than in 1954, against a very slightly increased population (estimated increase was 10).

The chief causes of deaths were:—Diseases of the Heart and circulation, 175; Cancer, 66; and Bronchitis and Pneumonia, 16. There were 4 deaths only from all forms of Tuberculosis—the lowest number of deaths in the Borough yet

recorded for this disease. The Death Rate per 1,000 population was 0.14. Approximately 60% of all deaths were in the age groups of 65 years and over.

There was one Maternal Death.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age numbered 16, an increase of 5 on the previous year, resulting in a much increased Infantile Death Rate at 35.3 (24.2 in 1954). The main causes of deaths in infants were congenital defect and prematurity.

The two tables below show (a) the age at death of all cases, and (b) the cause of death:—

Age Groups	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	Over 75	Total
Males	9					1	2	2		3	7	19	37	43	48	171
Females	7									1	2	14	31	42	60	157
Total	16					1	2	2		4	9	33	68	85	108	328

Registrar-General's Table of Deaths in Workington Borough for the Year 1955.

Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	1	4
Tuberculosis, other forms	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	1	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasms, stomach	5	9	14
do. lung, bronchus	12	—	12
do. breast	—	7	7
do. uterus	—	3	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	17	13	30
Leukaemia	—	—	—
Diabetes	—	2	2
Vascular diseases of nervous system	21	30	51
Coronary disease, angina	35	13	48

Hypertension with heart diseases	2	3	5
Other heart diseases	28	32	60
Other circulatory disease	6	5	11
Congenital malformations	4	2	6
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	4	5	9
Bronchitis	3	4	7
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	14	18	32
Motor vehicle accidents	2	—	2
All other accidents	6	3	9
Suicide	2	2	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
All Causes	171	157	328
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

4.—Infantile Deaths.

There were sixteen deaths during 1955 of children under 1 year of age, as compared to eleven in 1954, the Infantile Mortality Rate being 35.3 as compared to 24.2 in the previous year. The main causes of death were congenital defect and prematurity. These two conditions still constitute the hard core of resistance to further reduction in infantile mortality.

The two tables below show (a) figures of Infantile Mortality in Workington and corresponding figures for England and Wales in quinquennial periods (average) from 1911 to 1955, and the figure for 1955, and (b) the distribution of deaths by age and cause in the year under consideration.

(a) Average Annual Infantile Mortality Rate.

(i.e. Deaths per 1,000 Registered Live Births).

<i>Period.</i>	<i>Workington M.B.</i>	<i>England and Wales.</i>
1911—1915	135	110
1916—1920	113	90
1921—1925	102	76
1926—1930	76	68
1931—1935	70	62
1936—1940	63	55
1941—1945	52	50
1946—1950	41	36
1951—1955	29	27
1955	35.3	25.5

(b) Infantile Deaths Shown by Ages and Causes of Death, 1955.

Causes of Death	Age in Weeks				Age in Months						Total Deaths
	Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	Under 1 Month	1—2	2—3	3—6	6—9	9—12	
Congenital Defect	2	2		—	4	—	—	1	—	1	6
Prematurity	5		1	—	5	—	—		1	1	5
Broncho—Pnuemonia	1	—		1	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Other Causes	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	3
	10	2	—	1	13	—	—	1	1	1	16

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a) Staff.

The Public Health Committee and the Staff of the Public Health Department are listed at the beginning of this report. There was one change in Staff during the year—that of Junior Clerk.

(b) Laboratory Services.

The examination of Pathological specimens and the examination of water samples (bacteriological and chemical) are undertaken in the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle. A certain number of water samples were also submitted to a Public Analyst outside the County area. Widal testing of personnel of the Corporation who are employed in water-duties was carried out under arrangements made with Dr. A. F. C. Ogilvie, Pathologist at Workington Infirmary and Whitehaven Hospital.

(c) Local Health Authority Services.

Medical provisions in the functions of the Ambulance and Sitting-case Car Service, the Home-nursing and Midwifery Service and the School and Child Welfare Services are the responsibility of the Cumberland County Council. The following clinical sessions are held in Workington, mainly at the Park Lane Clinic:—

Child Welfare—Tuesday and Wednesday at 2 p.m.

Diphtheria Immunisation—Wednesday at 2 p.m.

School Clinic—Daily at 9 a.m. Doctor in attendance on Tuesday.

Midwives' Ante-Natal Clinics—by appointment.

Orthopaedic Sessions—periodically, by appointment.

Orthopaedic After-care Clinic—by appointment.

Orthopaedic ^{E.C.} Clinic—on reference by Eye Specialist and by appointment.

Speech Therapy—by appointment on Mondays.

The distribution of Welfare Foods was taken over by the Local Health Authority from the Ministry of Food during the year.

Through the courtesy of the County Medical Officer an Assistant Superintendent Nursing Officer has always been available to accompany the Medical Officer of Health (who has no nursing staff on his establishment) on visits to old persons thought likely, or reported to be, living under insanitary conditions or unable to look after themselves. No action was taken under the National Assistance Acts during the year, but one old person living under such conditions was persuaded after a number of visits to accept institutional care.

(d) Services of the Regional Hospital Board.

General medical and surgical services are available at the Workington Infirmary and other hospitals of the area of West Cumberland. Sessions for school-children in respect of conditions of the Eye and of conditions of the Ear, Nose and Throat are held in two hospitals and also, by special arrangement, in Clinics of the Local Health Authority.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. R. James, gives a detailed report on Sanitary matters in the appendix to this report.

Mr. Handel Kay, Borough Surveyor and Water Engineer, has kindly furnished some facts and figures in relation to housing, water supply and sewerage, and these are incorporated in the text below where appropriate.

1. Housing.

The number of houses built by the Local Authority was 157: by private enterprise 16.

Three Clearance Areas in Low Harrington were prepared in detail in respect of thirty-three houses but consideration of the representations by the Medical Officer was deferred.

Six families were rehoused on the recommendation of the Medical Officer because of Tuberculosis occurring in inadequate living conditions.

2. Water.

There were no major water undertakings during the year. Piping in housing schemes was laid to the extent of 1,750 yards.

Water sampling from a point above the level at which Chlorination takes place and from various sections of the mains in the town were submitted for analysing throughout the year. Generally the samples gave satisfactory results and a typical full analysis is reproduced here, as follows:—

Probable number of coli-aerogenes	
present in 100 ml	Nil
Appearance in a 2ft. tube	Clear and colourless
p.h.	6.8
	parts per million
Ammoniacal nitrogen	0.025
Albuminoid nitrogen	0.033
Oxygen absorbed from N/80 permanganate	
in 15 mins. at 27 degrees C.	0.08
Oxygen absorbed from N/80 permanganate	
in 4 hours at 27 degrees C.	0.36
Dissolved solids dried for 1 hour at	
180 degrees C.	30

Hardness—Total	14
—Carbonate	0
—Non-carbonate	14
Chlorine present as chlorides	7.5
Heavy metals—	
Copper, zinc, lead	0.0
iron approx.	1 p.p.m.
Opinion:—"Bacteriologically and chemically a satisfactory water."	

Certain parts of the town, however, including the large area covered by the United Steel Company's Works again gave rise to concern from the point of view of colour and deposit. It is hoped that the installation of flushing points at the ends of the three supplies to the works and the scraping of the corresponding main in this part of the town will effect a cure of this defect.

SWIMMING BATHS. Samples taken were satisfactory from the bacteriological aspect except when the chlorinating plant became defective. The pool was closed to the public until the installation of a new plant was completed.

3. Sewerage and Drainage.

The only work of note was the laying of some sixteen hundred yards of sewers in housing estates.

4. Refuse Collection and Disposal.

No sites were acquired or newly operated during the year. The access road to the north end of Harrington Ropery Tip was advanced by some fifty or sixty yards. A preliminary report on the possible use of the Annie Pit Allotment area was submitted.

There were no major changes in transport, routes or method of collection during the year.

A total of 10,000 tons approximately (estimated on test weighings) of household refuse was collected during the year (to 31-3-56). This represents 19.0 cwts. per 1,000 population per day. In addition over 3,000 tons of refuse other than household were accepted and disposed of on the Corporation tips. The net cost per ton, collection and disposal, was 37/2d., an increase of nearly 5/- per ton on the figure for 1954.

There was practically no income during the year as the paper-baling premises were destroyed by fire early in the year.

Issue of Dustbins.

In the three years since the beginning of the scheme to provide dustbins to rated premises dustbins have been issued steadily to a total of 4,095. It is estimated that approximately 55% of householders are now equipped with reasonable containers for household refuse.

SECTION D.

1. Inspections of Dwelling-houses during the Year:

(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	643
	(b) Number of inspections made for this purpose ..	2175
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	Nil
	(b) Number of inspections made for this purpose ..	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	35
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	608

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or other officers	562
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	16
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By Owners	8
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	8

(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	30
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a)	By Owners	29
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	1
(c)	Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	31
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	31
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	4
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or underground rooms having been rendered fit	1

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

During the year nearly 1,600 visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors to premises where food is stored, prepared or sold. This is a decrease of some 300 visits as compared with last year, due mainly to increased duties in other directions, particularly Slum Clearance.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, which came into operation on January 1st, 1956, are a great advance on the existing Clean Food Byelaws, and every endeavour is now being made to augment the many and varied provisions contained in the new Regulations.

I would still like to emphasise the important part that housewives and others can play in the enforcement of the

Regulations by insisting upon strict cleanliness by all food handlers, by voicing their protest against all unhygienic methods and by refusing to patronise shops where such practices occur. Co-operation by the public can greatly assist in raising the standard of hygiene in food premises.

There are 17 milk producers in the Borough, and 29 milk retailers. Approximately 95% of milk sold is bottled and is of Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised standard.

Ice cream continues to be a popular commodity. There are 5 manufacturers and 85 retailers in the Borough.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

1. Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) and Food-Poisoning.

With a low incidence of Whooping Cough, Measles and Chickenpox the number of infectious diseases notified during 1955 was less than half the figure for 1954. Only three cases of Scarlet Fever were notified. During the hot months of the year two cases of Typhoid Fever and twenty-six cases of Sonne Dysentery were notified.

No case of Food Poisoning was notified.

Scarlet Fever.

The incidence of this disease was at the low level of three cases.—Scarlatina now rarely emerges from the general group of streptococcal infections of the throat in the one-time typical clinical form as described in text-books.

Measles.

The forty-three cases were generally of a mild type. The incidence was only one-third of the previous year.

Whooping Cough.

In this disease, too, the incidence was only about one-third of the previous year.

Diphtheria and Diphtheria Immunisation.

No case of Diphtheria was notified during the year.

The number of primary inoculations carried out by general practitioners and the Local Health Authority was 487. Of these 227 were in children aged 0—5 years and 260 in children aged 5—15. Re-inforcement doses in children aged

4—15 years numbered 1,032. The re-inforcement or “booster” doses were mainly carried out by the medical staff of the Local Health Authority and the number was much in advance of that for the previous year despite shortages in staff and the added work entailed in the introduction of the B.C.G. Vaccination programme.

The percentage number of children inoculated (calculated on a local estimate of child population) is shown in table (a) below in respect of the group 0—5 years and 5—15 years. The figures are the same as last year, i.e. 39% and 89% respectively in the two groups. This means that the numbers *primarily* inoculated have only been sufficient to maintain the previous position. The larger number of “boosters” done have effected an improvement in the adequacy of protection in those previously inoculated—an improvement of 10 points over 1954 (see table (b)). Of all the children now under 15 years of age who have at some time been inoculated against Diphtheria 77% have been inoculated (either primarily or by booster dose) within the last five years (i.e. these are adequately protected) while 23% have been inoculated more than five years ago and are only partially protected. Table (b) gives the comparative figures in this respect for the last three years. It should be emphasised that this second set of figures relates only to the group of children who have at some time been inoculated but this group is not a big enough proportion of the total group at risk. Parents are not consenting early enough, or in sufficient numbers, to achieve more than the maintenance of a position that could easily be turned by a number of virulent carriers of the disease.

The insecurity of the present position is more truly revealed when the numbers *adequately* protected are expressed as a percentage of the numbers actually at risk. This “immunity index” is given in table (c) for the age group under 1 year, 1—4 years, 5—9 years, 10-14 years, and the total 0—15 years’ range. It shows that only a very small percentage (3%) are protected by the age of one year, that by five years of age only half are protected and that consent is more readily given to inoculation by parents when the child reaches school age.

(a) Diphtheria Immunisation State.

Percentage inoculated at some time calculated on figures of child population (Local Estimate since 1952).

Year.	Children aged 0—5 years.	Children aged 5—15 years.
1947	26	64
1948	32	65
1949	37	81
1950	37	82
1951	40	84
1952	39	85
1953	40	91
1954	39	89
1955	39	89

(b) Protection Percentages in the Inoculated Group—Adequate or Partial.

Year.	Adequate.	Partial.
1953	87	13
1954	67	33
1955	77	23

(c) Immunity Index—Percentage of Child Population Adequately Protected.

AGE GROUPS.

Year.	Under 1 year.	2-4 years.	5-9 years.	10-14 years.	0-15 years.
1953	..... 3 %	49 %	81 %	69 %	64 %
1954	..... 4 %	49 %	71 %	38 %	51 %
1955	..... 3 %	50 %	48 %	49 %	59 %

Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis).

Only one mildly paralytic case was notified during 1955.

Acute Primary Pneumonia.

Eight cases were notified with two deaths. Deaths from ALL forms of pneumonia (some forms not being notifiable) totalled nine.

Dysentery.

Twenty-six cases of Dysentery (Sonne type) were notified.. This type is generally mild in character but can be disabling enough to the individual patient. It is caused

mainly by the ingestion of food which has been contaminated by the organisms. An outbreak of the disease in the community is a reminder of the need for personal hygiene and cleanliness in households and in shops—in simple words, everybody should wash his or her hands thoroughly after a visit to the toilet and before handling food.

Typhoid Fever.

Two cases of true typhoid (the casual organism being *Salmonella typhi*) occurred during the outbreak of dysentery noted above. Both cases were notified from the local Infirmary where the diagnosis was confirmed bacteriologically and serologically. Cultures sent to the Central Enteric Reference Laboratory further confirmed the diagnosis and typed the strain of organism as Vi-phage type E 1—a type common in Britain at that time.

One case lived in Workington and one in Cockermouth Rural District: both were closely associated in their work and in after-duty jobbing in three different sanitary districts. Both would appear to have incubated the disease about the same time and a common source was most likely. Neither case had been abroad or even on holiday: the infection was certainly acquired within the three sanitary districts.

With the co-operation and active help of Dr. J. Patterson, Medical Officer of Health, Cockermouth Rural District Council and of the Sanitary Inspector of Ennerdale Rural District Council, a great deal of investigation was carried out over a period of five weeks in the three districts involved. The possibility of food—or water-borne infection was fully explored: specimens from a large number of contacts were examined: even a complete series of swabs from main sewers was sent for bacteriological analysis. The source of infection was not discovered. No further cases were notified. The most likely source would appear to have been food or drink contaminated by an intermittent carrier.

Meningococcal Infection.

There was one death among four cases of acute meningococcal septicaemia and meningitis.

Puerperal Infection.

Twenty-seven cases were notified of puerperal infection which were mild in character, the pyrexia being due to a variety of causes. The one Maternal Death during the year was not due to puerperal infection.

Chickenpox.

This disease was mild in character and the total of 88 cases was much less than for the previous year (220).

The table of notification of infectious disease below gives the numbers notified, the age incidence, the numbers admitted to hospital and the number of deaths:—

Notification of Infectious Disease, 1955.

Disease	Total Number of cases	Age Groups						Admitted to Hospital	Died
		Under 1 year							
		1--2	3--4	5--9	10--14	15 - 24	25 and over		
Scarlet Fever	3		1		2				
Whooping Cough	32	2	7	11	12				
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1		1						
Measles	43	1	10	10	22				
Diphtheria									
			Under 5 years						
			5--14	15--44	45--64	65 and over			
Acute Pneumonia	8	1	1	3	1	2	3	2	
Dysentery	26	8	12	4	2		3		
Erysipelas	7		1	1	5				
Meningococcal Infections	4	2	1	1			4	1	
Typhoid	2			2			2		
Puerperal pyrexia	27								
Opthalmia Neonatorum									
Chickenpox	88								
Malaria (Contracted Abroad)	1								

2. Tuberculosis.

(a) Prevention—B.C.G. Vaccination, etc.

All parents of children of the 13-14 year old group were invited to take part in the scheme of B.C.G. Vaccination which the Local Health Authority, by virtue of their powers under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, started early in the year.

Approximately eight per cent. of parents agreed to vaccination and over 266 children were actually vaccinated in the Workington group of schools. The figure naturally includes a certain number of children living without the Borough but attending secondary schools within. The vaccinations were carried out by selected and approved Medical Officers of the Cumberland County Council.

Mass X-ray examination of the chest was also offered to these children in order to exclude cases in which vaccination might be contra-indicated because of past or existing disease of the chest. Prior skin-testing was also employed towards the same end.

The vaccination of infants and other contacts is carried out at the Chest Centres.

Housing. One representation by the Medical Officer, six families were established in better housing conditions because of known cases in the home.

(b) Cases of Tuberculosis.

Seventy-one cases were notified during the year: of these 69 were respiratory in location. There were four deaths (3 males, 1 female) all in persons over 45 years of age of the respiratory form of the disease. The Death Rate per 1,000 Population was 0.14 per thousand as compared to 0.15 for England and Wales.

Tuberculosis.

Years	No of deaths — Workington			Death Rate per 1,000 Pop.	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total	Workington	England and Wales
1911-1915	27.3	4.8	42.1	1.69	1.41
1916-1920	21.8	13.4	35.2	1.25	1.48
1921-1925	17.4	6.6	24.0	0.88	1.08
1926-1930	18.2	8.2	26.4	1.01	0.94
1931-1935	22.8	8.0	30.8	1.19	0.81
1936-1940	20.0	5.4	25.4	0.92	0.67
1941-1945	19.7	5.9	25.6	0.86	0.66
1946-1950	17.2	1.8	19.0	0.67	0.48
1951	17	4	21	0.73	0.32
1952	10	—	10	0.35	0.24
1953	9	—	9	0.31	0.20
1954	5	—	5	0.17	0.18
1955	4	—	4	0.14	0.15

The rate in the year 1955 was therefore rather lower than that for England and Wales (actually 0.137 as against 0.147—to three places of decimals).

The increased number of notifications and the increased number of cases on the register would appear to conflict with the lowering of the mortality but may well be due to earlier diagnosis consequent on a more comprehensive service including the employment of whole-time personnel and newer methods such as the use of Mass X-ray procedures,

The following table gives the number of new cases notified during the year by age and sex for respiratory and non-respiratory and the number of deaths in similar manner:—

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
10—15	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—20	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—25	4	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—35	3	11	...	1	...	...	...	...
35—45	10	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—55	10	2	...	...	2	1	...	...
55—65	4	3	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 & over.	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	37	32	1	1	3	1	...	...

Treatment.

Measures for the preventive treatment are outlined above. Active treatment of the individual case is carried out both at home and in hospital. Figures for cases treated at home are not available: the numbers treated in various hospitals (as far as such is known) are shown in the table below:—

	In Hos- pital 1st. Jan. 1955.	Admit- ted. 1955	Dis- charged	Died.	In Hos- pital 31st Dec. 1955.
Respiratory Cases					
Adult Males ...	9	11	14	1	5
Adult Females ...	4	12	9	...	7
Children ...	...	2	1	...	1
Non-Respiratory Cases					
Adult Males ...	...	...	...	..	...
Adult Females ...	...	...	...	...	...
Children ...	...	...	...	...	...
Observation Cases					
Adult Males ...	...	..	...	...	...
Adult Females ...	1	...	1	...	...
Children ...	...	..	...	...	..
TOTAL ...	14	25	25	1	13

Tuberculosis Register.

On the 31st December, 1955, the number of cases remaining on the Register was as follows:—

Respiratory Cases.

Male	156
Female	137
Total	293

Non-Respiratory Cases.

Male	35
Female	44
Total	79
Total on Register	372

3. Cancer.

Deaths from all forms of this disease totalled 66—34 male and 32 female. The Mortality Rate per 1,000 Population from this cause was 2.3 as compared to 2.2, 1.5 and 1.9 in years 1954, 1953 and 1952 respectively. The Rate for England and Wales was 2.1 per 1,000 persons. The range of age at death was 32 years to 92 years in males and 29 years to 85 years in females: the average age at death was 63 in males and 64 in females.

The distribution of cases by location of the disease and by sex was as follows:—

<i>Location.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Stomach	5	9	14
Lungs	12	—	12
Breast	—	7	7
Uterus	—	3	3
Other Sites	17	13	30
	—	—	—
	34	32	66
	—	—	—

In dealing with a comparatively small population and small numbers in causes of death from year to year it is perhaps idle to speculate as to why this year in question there were ten more deaths from Cancer of the stomach and that all the deaths from Cancer of the lung were in males. Although a vast volume of work continues to be done on all aspects of the disease, and many factors elucidated, there are many problems in predisposition and excitation left, as is, indeed, the ultimate reason why tissue cells run amok and produce a state of malignancy.

APPENDIX.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. ANNUAL REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

*To J. L. Hunter, Esq., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.*

Sir,

I herewith submit the following statement showing the number and nature of inspections, etc., during the year 1955, also the number of notices served and various items dealt with:—

Total number of inspections	...	...	...	...	9406
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	169
Caravans	...	...	...	...	37
Cinemas, Theatres, Clubs, Hotels	...	...	...	...	108
Complaints investigated	...	...	...	...	989
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	102
Drainage inspections	...	...	...	...	258
Dwellinghouses:—					
Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	608
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	814
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	2175
Disinfections	...	...	...	...	72
Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	133
Factories	...	...	...	...	373
Food Shops	...	...	...	...	477
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	302
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	73
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	70
Markets, Stalls, Carts	...	...	...	...	53
Offensive Trades, etc.:—					
Fish Frying	...	...	...	...	152
Tripe Boiling	...	...	...	...	24
Rag and Bone Merchants	...	...	...	...	47
Knacker Yard	...	...	...	...	57
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	815
Piggeries, Stables, Poultry	...	...	...	...	345
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	291
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	16
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	729
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	117

Notices Served.

Informal Notices	...	...	...	...	608
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	24

At the end of the year 83 Informal Notices remained to be dealt with.

The attention of the Borough Surveyor was called to the following defects:—

Dangerous buildings	...	...	...	...	1
Choked sewers or street gullies	...	...	...	...	10
Waste or poor pressure of water, defective stop taps, etc.	...	...	...	...	19
Street Sweeping	...	...	...	...	2
Repairs to Corporation Property	...	...	...	...	6

Summary of Works Executed.

DRAINAGE:—

Drains relaid	...	...	...	...	14
Drains cleansed from obstruction	...	...	...	...	61
Inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	...	2
Gullies renewed	...	...	...	...	26
Ventilation pipes renewed	...	...	...	...	2

SANITARY CONVENIENCES:—

Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	38
W.C. basins renewed	...	...	...	...	35
Cone joints repaired	...	...	...	...	7
Additional W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	...	2
Seats repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	9
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	13
Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	10
Floors renewed	...	...	...	...	1
Soilpipes renewed	...	...	...	...	5
Light and ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	2
Walls repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	5
Cleansed or limewashed	...	...	...	...	6
Water pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	87
Insufficient water supply	...	...	...	...	4

YARD AND OUTBUILDINGS:—

Wash-houses repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	5
Yard surfaces relaid	...	...	...	...	4
Coalhouses repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Yards to clean	...	...	...	...	6
Yard doors to repair or renew	...	...	...	...	12

EXTERIOR OF HOUSES:—

Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	31
Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	106
Spoutings cleansed or renewed	...	...	...	...	55
Pointing and rendering	...	...	...	...	11

INTERIOR OF HOUSES:—

Chimney flue repaired	...	...	...	...	21
Ceilings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	17
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	29
Fireplaces or ovens repaired	...	...	...	...	20
Doors repaired	...	...	...	...	38
Wallplaster renewed	...	...	...	...	42
Windows renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Sashcords provided	...	...	...	...	62
Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	17
Wastepipes renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	14
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	9
Waterpipes renewed	...	...	...	...	16
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	74
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	5

MISCELLANEOUS:—

Animals removed	...	...	...	...	4
Poultry removed	...	...	...	...	6
Caravans removed	...	...	...	...	15

Verminous Premises.

Owing to the presence of vermin 86 houses were disinfested by this Department. The number of Council houses found infested by bugs was 2, other houses 3.

Eight houses were treated for fleas, 21 for cockroaches, 6 for silverfish, and 46 for ants.

All fluids and powders used for disinfestation works have D.D.T. and Pyrethum incorporated, and for ant extermination 0.25 per cent. Thallium Sulphate is included.

Rats and Mice.

No serious infestation occurred during the year. Eight hundred and fifteen visits were made to premises regarding complaints of rats and mice, and all proved of a minor character. Gardens and piggeries have received special attention.

In addition to traps, prebaited are sausage rusk and bread mash, and poisons used are zinc phosphate, red squill and warfarin.

The sewers in the Borough were test baited once during the year.

The Cloffocks and Harrington refuse tips have received regular weekly visits. At both tips minor infestations were dealt with. The system of controlled tipping, covering and narrowing of tipping faces has eliminated breeding areas.

Factories Act, 1937.

Number in register	...	...	...	...	256
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	542
Notices served	...	...	...	...	21
Prosecutions	...	...	...	...	Nil
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	2

Classification of defects:—

Want of cleanliness	...	...	...	...	6
Inadequate ventilation	...	...	...	...	1

Sanitary Conveniences:—

Insufficient	...	...	...	...	4
Unsuitable or defective	...	...	...	...	21
Not separate for sexes	...	...	...	...	2
Fire Escape Certificates issued	...	...	...	...	2

The following is a list of Classified Trades carried on in the Borough:—

Aerated Waters	...	...	...	...	3
Paint Making, etc.	...	...	...	...	4
Enamelling	...	...	...	...	1
Corn Merchants	...	...	...	...	2
Printing, etc.	...	...	...	...	5
Rayon Manufacture	...	...	...	...	1
Gas Undertaking	...	...	...	...	2
Laundry	...	...	...	...	1
Dyers and Cleaners	...	...	...	...	3
Brewery	...	...	...	...	1
Quarrying	...	...	...	...	2
Weaving	...	...	...	...	3
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	5
General Dealers	...	...	...	...	4
Building Trades	...	...	...	...	26
Wood Cutting and Working	...	...	...	...	29
Leather Working, Shoe Repairing, etc.	...	...	...	...	22
Monumental Masons	...	...	...	...	2
Collieries	...	...	...	...	2
Fur Manufacture	...	...	...	...	1

Tailoring, Cutting, etc.	...	...	...	...	15
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	28
Food Preserving Premises	...	...	...	...	52
Light Engineering—including Motor Repairs	...	...	...	...	20
Heavy Engineering	...	...	...	...	7
Electrical Undertaking	...	...	...	...	2
Plumbers, Gasfitters, etc.	...	...	...	...	11
Scale Repairing, etc.	...	...	...	...	2
					<hr/> 256 <hr/>

Inspection of Premises.

All premises where food is prepared or sold have been regularly inspected. The following foodstuffs were found unfit for human consumption—

Tinned and Bottled Goods:—

Corned Beef (88 tins).	Gooseberries (3 jars).
Pork (9 tins).	Greengages (9 tins).
Tongue (32 tins).	Fruit Salad (8 tins).
Beef (2 tins).	Bilberries (5 tins).
Steak (80 tins).	Blackberries (1 tin).
Ham (30 tins).	Grapefruit (12 tins).
Luncheon Meat (74 tins).	Raspberries (4 tins).
Veal (3 tins).	Cherries (38 tins).
Chicken (2 tins).	Peaches (45 tins).
Pickles (18 bottles).	Prunes (2 tins).
Steak Puddings (2 tins).	Damsons (5 tins).
Salmon (11 tins).	Pears (78 tins).
Pilchards (4 tins).	Plums (27 tins).
Sardines (9 tins).	Rhubarb (2 tins).
Crabmeat (6 tins).	Apricots (11 tins).
Peas (122 tins).	Strawberries (22 tins).
Beans (30 tins).	Pine apples (114 tins).
Soup (35 tins).	Oranges (17 tins).
Coffee (1 tin).	Jam (1 tin).
Carrots (1 tin).	Milk (115 tins).
Onions (4 bottles).	Cream (9 tins).
Tomatoes (201 tins).	

Other Foods:—Duck ($8\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.).

Geese (79 lbs.).

Turkey (59 lbs.).

Bacon ($48\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.).

Ham (11 lbs.).

Sausages (26 lbs.).

Beef (180 lbs.).

Cod (19 stones).

Cheese ($18\frac{1}{2}$ stones).Ice Cream ($27\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.).Cereals ($1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.).Cake ($27\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.).

Bananas (46 cwts.).

Potatoes (18 cwts.).

The approximate weight of the foodstuffs condemned was $4\frac{1}{2}$ tons.

In all cases Certificates were issued under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, to all respective vendors, and as far as possible Ministry of Food Circular M.F. 3/48 has been followed regarding salvage of unsound foods.

(Signed) RICHARD JAMES,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Town Hall,

Workington.

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